

went forth with gas masks on, without rifle grenades or hand grenades, and a scarcity of ammunition, all day long in the assaulting formation amidst the heaviest artillery barrage the Germans ever threw over in this section, according to their reports. Onward rushed the men; from shell hole to shell hole, through thick undergrowth, sweeping all in their path, capturing machine gun nests, ammunition dumps, crossing the original Hindenburg Line and advancing two kilometres beyond through the thick forest of Bois des Manheulles to an open field about 700 yards of Ville-en-Woerve. In the meantime the Company had gotten beyond the German artillery range, had cut the German telephone lines, and a part of the 318th Machine Gun Battalion had annexed itself. Most of the first, third and fourth platoons were at other points near by, but here at the corner of the open field was encountered a German camp, where a fierce battle raged for thirty minutes in which five German prisoners were taken with a loss of one man wounded (Corsentino). It was then late in the afternoon and the Captain decided to withdraw to the Old Hindenburg Line with the prisoners, spend the night, and wait reinforcements. A picture of the cement dugout and ammunition dump in which the second platoon and the Machine Gun Company spent the night of November 9, 1918, is seen on another page.

Lieutenants Spears, Elliot and Smith were in other quarters in trenches, dugouts and shell holes along the line with their platoons. During the night they had been discovered by the German machine gunners and snipers, and a heavy barrage before day compelled them to withdraw to another position. During the day Private Kessler was killed by a sniper, and Lieutenant Smith was killed in the night by a piece of shrapnel. A